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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1897.

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ASPECTS OF AMERICAN ASTRONOMY.*

THE University of Chicago yesterday accepted one of the most munificent gifts ever made for the promotion of any single science, and with appropriate ceremonies dedicated it to the increase of our knowledge of the heavenly bodies. The President of your University has done me the honor of inviting me to supplement what was said on that occasion by some remarks of a more general nature.

One is naturally disposed to say first what is uppermost in his mind. At the present moment this will naturally be the general impression made by what has been seen and heard. The ceremonies were attended not only by a remarkable delegation of citizens, but by a number of visiting astronomers, which seems large when we consider that the profession itself is not at all numerous in any country. As one of these, your guests, I am sure that I give expression only to their unanimous sentiment in saying that we have been extremely gratified in many ways by all that we have seen and heard. The mere fact of so munificent a gift to science cannot but excite universal admiration. We knew well enough that it was nothing more than might have been expected from the public spirit of this great West; but the first view

* Address by Professor Simon Newcomb, LL.D., on the occasion of the dedication of the Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago, October 22, 1897.